

The Story of Three Church Members (2 Timothy 4:10-11)

Proposition: Every person can learn specific lessons for their life by following the story of the three characters mentioned in our text.

I. Demas: He was Seduced by his Surroundings (Vs. 10a-c)

A. Surroundings that Produced a Loving of Life (Vs. 10b-c)

B. Surroundings that Produced a Leaving of the Lord (Vs. 10a)

II. Luke: He was servant to his Sovereign (Vs. 11a)

A. A Servant of Low Degree (Vs. 11a)

B. A Servant of Diligent Labor (Vs. 11a)

III. Mark: He was Salvaged from his Stumble (Vs. 11b-c)

A. Rejected for a Stumble (Vs. 11b)

B. Restored from a Stumble (Vs. 11c)

The Story of Three Church Members (2 Tim 4:10-11) I've heard it said that "the Ministry would be a whole lot easier if you didn't have to deal with people." But that is what

churches are filled with: people. All kinds of people. Short ones, tall ones, big ones, little ones. All kinds of people. I've been in church a lot of years and let me tell you I have met and known all kinds of people. There have been some characters float in and out of my life in the years I've been in church. I'm sure many of you could say the same. People you have loved, people you have learned from, people you have lost track of. In our text Paul begins to name some of the people that surrounded his life in his years of ministry. 2 Timothy is the last letter of Paul. This is the final chapter of his life, and in review he names three specific characters I want to focus in on and draw out application for our lives. Every person

can learn specific lessons for their life by T. Demas: He was Seduced by His Surroundings. In 1957, Ford motor company introduced a car known as the Edsel. By the time the Edsel hit the showroom the country was in recession and the car was priced too high. To boot several

parts didn't fit. Edsel = Failure; Demas = Failure.

A. Surroundings that Produced a Leaving of Life-
(10b). It wasn't easy to be in the traveling caravan w/ the Apostle Paul. They were not greeted as the "good time, rock-n-roll-gospel quartet." No. Where ever Paul went to preach, it was very likely that that you would either be in a riot, be in jail or have your life threatened. Demas looked around and was seduced by the ease and comfort that could be had in the world around him. Maybe there was a disagreement; Paul ³ ~~you~~ don't have to focus so much on the dread of future

B. Surroundings that Produced a Leaving of Life
(10a) Forsaken = 3 gk words = down-out-leave together they imply = leaving someone in a terrible condition; abandoning a person at the worst possible moment. This man that is identified in Philomenas as a fellow laborer in Christ, and mentioned in Colossians 4: 14 as standing w/ Paul now has abandoned Paul. Drifting away little by little! Until he was gone. I can hear "abandoned his faith, escaped into the world to spare himself from possible persecution. How tragic! But you die know then, I know then. Don't let it be you!" ^{I am a die on health field}

II. Luke: He was Servant to His Sovereign
(11a) In the twilight hours of the great apostle Paul, not every one had abandoned Paul! Faithful Luke stood at the side of

1) ...their life by following the story of the three characters mentioned in our text.

2) ...dread of future events. Just focus on how someone can live a good life here and now. Some scholars believe that Thessalonica was his home town. A place of comfort and familiarity. But Jesus said Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

1) ...with many Dr. Luke's who labor in the shadows and behind the scenes. Who bind up the wounds and sorrows of others and never claim a moment of notoriety for them selves. An exemplary servant of God.

2) ...who yielded his talents to God. How is the church being helped by you? How are the needs of others being met by you? Who is going to go to heaven because of you?

Paul till the end. Notice some things about Luke.

A. A Servant of Low Degree - Luke is only mentioned three times in Scripture, in which we find out that his trade was that of a physician, Dr. Luke. Although not many

Dr.'s are known for their humility, Luke is very much in the back ground, behind the scenes. Doubtless this Dr. bandaged up the stripes of Paul, tended to his wounds, soothed the bruises suffered and the wounds of Christ rejection. Now when Paul was in the horrible Mamertine Prison, there was Luke. More than likely he buried Paul. The church is filled w/ many ¹

B. A Servant of Diligent Labor - As I mentioned earlier, he used his talents and abilities for the Lord. As a Dr. he tended to the physical needs of Paul. He also used his ability for writing for the Kingdom of God. The Gospel of Luke has been called "the most beautiful book in the world." Luke records 6 miracles and 19 parables nowhere else. The book of Acts was written by Luke. Phillips "an essential bridge between the gospel and the epistle. He wasn't a preacher a deacon an evangelist. He was a church member that yielded his

III. Mark: He Was Salvaged from His Struggle
Last week on the Indian Reservation, I preached a message about Temple Vessels. It's very much a message about restoration. Vessels that

have been taken from a place of usefulness and

defiled by the enemy were restored to usefulness. Very much may

A. Rejected for a Stumble - In Acts 12:12 we find young John Mark as the son of Mary of Jerusalem. In Col 4:10 he is nephew to Barnabas. You can see him a maybe a member of the youth group at 1st Baptist of Jerusalem. A young man full of promise and enthusiasm.

In Acts 13, 1st Missionary Journey of Paul & Barnabas. Just 13 vs later, John Mark is leaving for home.

Was it persecution or pestilence or poverty? Not sure. But what ever the cause, just like Demas, Mark abandoned Paul. Because of that, on 2nd Mission, Paul adamantly refused to take Mark. If you have been a Christ

B. Restored from a Stumble - My dad used to talk about a message by Hyles called "Knocked down, but not knocked out." It's not over till it's over! Failure is never final. Paul said that this one time missionary mishap was "profitable-useful-meet for use." 2 Tim 2:21 describe Mark. Someone profitable is meet!

There was a good 6 or 7 year period in which Mark is not heard from. But in that backslidden state God was working! And now God is once again using this Stumble servant. You can be restored. Amazing Grace!

IV Close - Three different church members and all three characters apply to us today. Which one are you like? Which one best describes your story? Demas, Luke, Mark.

- 1) ...been a christian for any length of time then you know the sting of failure. You may have even been rejected because of that failure. Paul had every right to be suspect toward Mark. The reputation of the Lord Jesus Christ is at stake! But take heart John Mark...
- 2) 2 Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.
- 3) ...grace! God used Mark to write the Gospel of Mark. What a privilege for a one time backsliden missionary wash out. You may not write a gospel but you are required to live one: "You are writing a gospel a chapter a day, By all that you do and all that you say. Men read what you write, whether faithless or true, Say what is the gospel according to you!"